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DECEMBER 1978
Number 79-3

statistical reporter

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Prepared Monthly by the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards

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An Error Profile for the Current Population Survey Employment Statistics

By Barbara A. Bailar and Camilla A. Brooks

Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce

Introduction

The Subcommittee on Nonsampling Errors of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology decided to illustrate the ways in which nonsampling errors can affect survey statistics by constructing an error profile. The error profile constructed relates to the Current Population Survey (CPS) and, specifically, to the statistics on the level of employment. The error profile has been published as *Statistical Policy Working Paper 3: An Error Profile: Employment as Measured by the Current Population Survey*[1] prepared by Camilla A. Brooks and Barbara A. Bailar of the Subcommittee with the advice of the other Subcommittee members and considerable help from other employees of the Bureau of the Census.

Because of the importance of the possible effects of nonsampling or measurement errors on survey statistics, it seemed important to the Subcommittee to identify all survey operations and then to look at any differences between the specification of an operation and its execution. Tore Dalenius, an advisor to the Subcommittee, suggested that an error profile give a systematic and comprehensive account of the survey operations that lead to a survey statistic and then include an assessment of the presence or absence of a deviation between the design and execution, the size of any deviation and a measure of the impact, if any.[2]

The CPS was selected as the object of a profile because it is a survey with a long history, much has been written about it, a considerable amount of research has been done on the survey methods used, and it is a survey that produces data on important statistics. Though the focus is on employment statistics, much of the discussion relates to other statistics produced from the survey.

The purposes of the error profile are as follows:

1. to illustrate how an error profile is created in an effort to encourage other statisticians to provide error profiles for the major recurrent survey statistics;
2. to compile in a single document the sources of error and the information that is available about these sources of error and their impact;
3. to illustrate the need for controlled experiments to measure nonsampling errors because of the lack of knowledge of the impact of these errors; and
4. to stimulate development of a mathematical model that will reflect the ways in which the errors from different sources interact.

This article gives a brief description of the organization of the report, the highlights of the findings for the major survey operations, and some conclusions about the usefulness of the error profile.

Organization of the Report

The report is organized into chapters, most of which discuss a major survey operation. A description is given of the process and then a discussion of what is known about possible errors or biases arising from the process follows. The major operations studied are:

[1] Copies of this document are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 for $2.75, Stock No. 003-005-00182-4.

[2] Dalenius, Tore, "Strain at a Gnat and Swallow a Camel: or, the Problem of Measuring Sampling and Non-sampling Errors, *"Proceedings of the Social Statistics Section, American Statistical Association, 1977*, pp. 21–25.

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A. Sampling design
   1. frames
   2. sample selection
   3. quality control of sampling process

B. Observational design
   1. data collection procedure
   2. questionnaire design
   3. data collection staff
   4. interviewer training
   5. quality control of field work

C. Data preparation design
   1. data input operations
   2. cleaning, editing, and imputation
   3. quality control of data processing

D. Production of estimates
   1. weighting procedure
   2. estimation procedure
   3. quality control of estimation procedure

E. Analysis and publication

Findings for Major Survey Operations

Certain areas of the survey operations have received a great deal of attention and much is known about the limitations inherent in these operations. Other survey operations have not been studied extensively and little is known about the impact of errors arising from these operations. A brief summary of the highlights of the findings for each of the operations listed above is given.

Sampling Design.–The sampling design of the CPS and its implementation has been the focus of a considerable amount of work at the Bureau of the Census. Efforts to improve the sampling frame are ongoing activities. The coverage bias resulting from the sampling frame not completely covering the entire universe of households is estimated to be on the order of three percent. However, there are missed households for reasons other than sampling frame deficiencies, and missed persons within households, as well. The impact of the undercoverage in the 1970 census and the additional undercoverage in the CPS is discussed and some data are presented about the possible impact on employment statistics.

Observational Design.—The potential sources of error associated with the elements discussed in this chapter are many, but little is known about the existence or the impact of any errors. This is an area in which the need for methodological studies is clearly illustrated.

The interviews are conducted in the CPS by means of a mixture of personal visits and telephone calls. No definitive data are available comparing the effect on labor force statistics of these two types of interviewing methods, though evidence is available from other studies that for some statistics, the mode of interviewing has an effect on the data. A controlled experiment is currently underway to compare telephone with personal visits for collecting labor force data.

Proxy respondents are permitted in the CPS. In fact, a household respondent answers for all persons in the household. Experiments done several years ago show that the use of proxy respondents may result in slightly fewer persons being classified in the labor force. No recent data are available, but a controlled experiment is now in process.

A fair amount of work has been done to develop and test the questionnaire used in the CPS. However, not enough is known about the response quality when supplemental questions are added to the questionnaire or the effect of placement of questions. For example, data are shown that a particular set of additional questions on the interview schedule may result in more persons being classified as employed. A quality control program on interviewer performance yields a series of useful measures. However these measures cannot be translated into a summary measure to describe quality of published data. A study of interview variability showed that there was considerable variability among interviewers on employment items.

The method of training interviewers may be related to the quality of survey statistics. The results of a study following a training session designed to find out about the extent of errors made by interviewers is described.

This chapter is long and encompasses many survey procedures. The findings are quite variable, depending upon the complexity of the procedure. The findings are fragmentary and illustrate those areas where knowledge is lacking. More importantly, there is no model by which the various pieces of information can be combined to describe their joint effects on data.

Data Preparation Design.—The microfilming and FOSDIC operations are under tight controls, and error rates are presented. There is

extensive documentation on this phase of the survey operations. The effects on the survey data are minimal.

Less is known about the effects of the editing and imputation procedure. Very little quantifiable data are available. A study on this is now in process.

Production of Estimates.—The estimation process is extremely complex. A great deal of effort is made in the estimation procedure to reduce the variance of the estimates. However, some aspects of the estimation procedure may themselves increase the level of nonsampling error, while other aspects may reduce the level. For example, the "rotation group bias" or the bias associated with the length of time a respondent is in the sample, is larger for estimates of level with the estimation scheme used than with an intermediate estimation procedure.

The effect of the weighting procedure is discussed, some problems in the application are shown, but the impact on employment statistics is unknown.

The data are seasonally adjusted. A discussion of the seasonal adjustment process is given, but little is known about the impact of the process on the estimates.

Analysis and Publication.—Analysis and publication of the labor force estimates take place at the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Potential sources of error are discussed, but no data are available on the possible impact.

Conclusions

The Subcommittee found the project useful. It was possible to list the various potential sources of error and hypothesize about the possible effect. It was very useful to compile in a single document all the information available about these sources of error and their impact. The information can be used as an aid for:

1. a total survey design;
2. establishing a foundation for a comprehensive methodological research program; and
3. the improvement of some problem procedures.

It was extremely useful to see where the gaps in knowledge about the impact of nonsampling errors occurred. Also, the project has spurred new interest in developing a mathematical model that will reflect the interaction of errors from various sources.

Future Activities

The preface of the report states that:

> We expect that the error profile approach will prove useful to both users and producers of statistics. Thus, it should help to enhance the users' appreciation of the limitations of the statistics. In addition, an error profile may guide the producers in their efforts to identify those survey operations which need to be redesigned and/or controlled better in order to improve the quality of the survey results. We hope that in the future error profiles will be prepared for other important Federal statistical series.

The Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards plans to discuss among statistical personnel from various Federal offices the results of the error profile prepared and the usefulness of such an approach for other statistical series.

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January 1976–December 1977

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Principles and Procedures For The Review and Maintenance of The Establishment Standard Industrial Classification Manual

(Draft Proposal)

PREPARED BY THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION*

A. *Purpose and Scope*

This SIC was developed for use in the classification of establishments by type of economic activity in which engaged. It is a classification of establishments rather than of companies or legal entities or enterprises,[1] by kinds of business and not by occupations or commodities. It encompasses all economic activity.

The purposes of this SIC are to facilitate the collection, tabulation, presentation, and analysis of data relating to establishments and to promote uniformity and comparability in the presentation of statistical data collected by various agencies of the U.S. Government. It is also used by state agencies, trade associations, private business and other organizations.

The basic purpose and objective of a periodic review is to update the classification so as to make it possible to better reflect statistically the existing industrial structure of the economy. It should provide the means for introducing new industry detail resulting from economic growth or technological change, as well as for deleting industries no longer significant.

B. *Principles for Review of the Classification*

In the review of the structure and detail of the 1972 edition of the establishment *SIC Manual* (as amended for 1977), the Technical Committee will be guided by the general principles described below. These principles should also be taken into consideration by others, both within and outside of Government, in the preparation of proposed changes.

(1) *Structure of the classification*

The classification should conform to the actual structure of industry as it is found to exist in the American economy. It does not, therefore, follow any single principle, such as the use of the products, market structure, the nature of the raw materials, etc., neither in its detail nor in its basic structure. It is a general-purpose framework which can have its basic detail rearranged for various analytical purposes.

(2) *Unit of classification*

The SIC is designed to classify the establishments according to the kind of economic activity in which such units are engaged.

An *establishment* is an economic unit which produces goods or services—for example, a

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Editor's Note.—The Interagency Technical Committee on Industrial Classification has developed a draft of procedures and principles for the 1982 revision of the *Standard Industrial Classification Manual.* This draft is being published here and in the *Federal Register* for public comment. Comments should be sent by February 28, 1979 to:

Milo Peterson
Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230
Telephone: (202) 673-7977

*The Technical Committee on Industrial Classification is chaired by the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards. The following agencies are represented on the Committee: Bureau of the Census, Bureau of Domestic Business Development, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Mines, Department of Agriculture, Department of Energy, Employment and Training Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Reserve System, Federal Trade Commission, General Services Administration, Internal Revenue Service, International Trade Commission, Securities and Exchange Commission, Small Business Administration, Social Security Administration.

[1] A separate classification for companies has been established in the 1974 *Enterprise Standard Industrial Classification Manual.*

farm, a mine, a factory, a store. In most instances, the establishment is at a single physical location and is engaged in one, or predominantly one, type of economic activity for which an industry code is applicable.

Where a single physical location encompasses two or more distinct and separate economic activities for which different industrial classification codes seem applicable, such activities should be treated as separate establishments and classified in separate industries, provided it is determined that: (1) no one industry description in the Standard Industrial Classification includes such combined activities; (2) the employment in each such economic activity is significant; (3) such activities are not ordinarily associated with one another at common physical locations; and (4) reports can be prepared on the number of employees, their wages and salaries, and other establishment type data.

A kind-of-activity unit is a special type of establishment in that there is no restriction with respect to the geographic area in which the activity of the unit is carried on. The kind-of-activity unit—which applies to activities such as construction, transportation and communication—generally carries on the same kind of activity over a more or less wide geographic area. Frequently separate records relating to such activity for a given portion of the area are not maintained.

An establishment is not necessarily identical with a company or legal entity or enterprise, which may consist of one or more establishments. Also, it is to be distinguished from organizational sub-units or departments within an establishment. Supplemental interpretations of the definition of an establishment are included in the industry descriptions of the Standard Industrial Classification.

The SIC distinguishes between *central administrative and auxiliary* establishments—which are primarily engaged in providing management, general administrative, and support services for other establishments of the same company or enterprise—and *operating* establishments—which produce goods and services primarily for the general public or for establishments owned or controlled by other companies or enterprises.

Activities of the type performed at separate administrative offices and auxiliary establishments are, in fact, normally carried on as an integral part of individual operating establishments. Hence, this type of activity is only partially measured by the statistics on separately reported central administrative offices and auxiliary establishments.

(3) *Basis of classification*

Each establishment is to be classified according to its major activity as defined by the 4-digit industries. Major activity is to be determined by the product or group of products produced or handled, or service rendered. Ideally, the principal product or service should be determined by reference to "value added." In practice, however, it is rarely possible to obtain this information for individual products or services, and it becomes necessary to adopt some other criteria[2] which may be expected to give approximately the same results.

(4) *Economic significance, specialization and coverage*

To be recognized as an industry, each group of establishments must have significance from the standpoint of number of persons employed, volume of business and other economic factors, such as number of establishments, payroll, or value added. These factors are taken into account in determining the economic significance of an industry by relating the totals for the industry to the average for all industries in the same economic division (mining, manufacturing, etc.).

Generally speaking, an existing SIC industry is considered to meet the requirements for economic significance if the average of the factors represents 10 percent or more of the average industry in the same division. A new industry, however, should attain a score of 20 percent or more of the average industry. Thus, for example, based on data from the 1972 Census of Manufactures, the average manufacturing industry has (dollar figures in millions):

711	establishments
40,000	employees
$ 356	payroll
$ 785	value added
$1,667	shipments

Note that an exception to the principle of economic significance is found in the grouping

[2]Other criteria include data on value of production, shipments, sales or receipts, payroll, number of employees, etc.

of establishments into industries described as "not elsewhere classified."

In order that an industry at the most detailed level of classification properly reflect the activity being measured, the output of the establishments in the industry should (1) consist largely of those goods and services defining the industry and (2) account for the bulk of the specified goods and services provided by all establishments.

For manufacturing industries these factors are measured by the primary product specialization and coverage ratios, respectively.

The *primary product specialization ratio* describes the proportion of product shipments (both primary and secondary) of the industry represented by those products defining the industry. The *coverage ratio* is the proportion of the products defining the industry shipped by establishments classified in the industry to total shipments of such products by all manufacturing establishments.

The minimum ratio for primary product specialization is 82. When applying the specialization test, it is well to remember that an industry may sometimes specialize in only one product (malt or beet sugar). In other instances, establishments in an industry may typically produce and thus specialize in a wide variety of products (as in meat packing plants; blast furnaces, steel works, and rolling and finishing mills; and radio and television transmitting, signalling, and detection equipment and apparatus). For varying reasons, industries have through the years developed a diverse manner. In such instances it is important, therefore, that the specialization ratios be applied and interpreted in the light of the typical product mix defining the particular industry.

In applying coverage ratio factors, separate criteria are established for industries with "captive" output within and outside the industry as distinguished from industries primarily producing for commercial sale. The minimum coverage ratio for industries producing for commercial sale is 70, whereas the coverage ratio for all other industries is 50, except for industries producing from purchased materials (stage of process classification). The minimum coverage ratio for this latter group of industries (e.g., blended and prepared flour, etc.) is 33. The coverage ratio for industries with significant "captive" counterparts (minimum coverage of 50 per cent) should be computed on the basis of the proportion of total output (shipments for sale, interplant transfers, and production for use within the same establishment) accounted for by the given industry compared with total output in all industries. Examples of such industries are Gray Iron Foundries, Automotive Stampings, and Iron and Steel Forgings.

Separate industries for establishments primarily engaged in activities that are rapidly expanding but which do not meet the quantitative measures in the usual reference statistics also may be established. Such separate industry identification will be based on statistical evidence of current size, growth by a specified time, and on the customary requirements, other than size, for establishing new industries. Proposed industries which meet the criteria only marginally should also show reasonable recent growth or evidence of future growth.

Proposed industries should generally meet all three criteria of economic significance, specialization, and coverage. However, industries which are considerably larger in economic significance than required may be acceptable even if they are slightly low in specialization or coverage. Thus, the specialization or coverage minimum requirement may be reduced by a percentage point for each doubling in economic size of the proposed industry.

C. *Considerations in Evaluating Proposed Changes*

Proposals for new or amended industry definitions (4-digit) as well as for the transfer of existing industries to other Industry Groups (3-digit), Major Groups (2-digit), or Economic Divisions, will be evaluated on the basis of the following considerations.

(1) Proposals for change should be accompanied by detailed statistical justification of adherence to the criteria described in section B above. It is recognized that exact data will not always be available nevertheless, as much evidence as possible should be provided to justify a change. Changes that would cross 3-digit and 2-digit SIC lines require stronger justification than those that would be confined within an existing 3-digit Industry Group. Here, especially, the alteration in the size and composition of the Industry Group from which the products or services would be taken must be ascertained

and the proposed revision should strengthen or clarify and not weaken the existing groups. Modifications crossing industry division lines, such as from manufacturing to nonmanufacturing, would call for even more careful consideration.

(2) In proposing new industries, it is essential to recognize the effect of the amendments on existing industries and on the continuity of statistical series. A significant weakening of a statistically sound existing industry or series would be an argument against constituting a new category. The position paper by the proponent for a change must deal with the consequences on the industries affected. Each establishment is currently classifiable in some industry. The subdivision of an existing industry into two or more qualifying industries would permit the development of statistics comparable with the past and would, therefore, receive more favorable consideration. In order to permit historical comparability to the current SIC, the Technical Committee may transfer activities or industries across Group lines and maintain them within their new Group as temporary separate industries, even though they may not meet the criteria for size, specialization, or coverage. Each temporary industry will be combined with another industry in the new Group when the SIC is next revised.

(3) Proposed amendments will be evaluated on the basis of costs, in terms of time and money to government agencies, business and other users of the classification, incurred in changing current records and for collection of new data necessary for the revised code determination; and effect of change in terms of burden on respondent, or availability of information in respondent records.

(4) Proposed new industries will be evaluated on the basis of data from the most current Economic Census and other appropriate sources relevant to the criteria followed in establishing new industries.

(5) The Technical Committee will take cognizance of the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) insofar as comparability with the United States establishment SIC is affected by proposed revisions.

(6) Proposed industries must contain a sufficient number of establishments so that agencies will be able to publish data within the constriction of not revealing the operations of individual producers.

(7) Consideration will be given to the capability for assessing the impact of international trade on proposed industries.

D. *Clearance Procedure*

All amendments to the 1972/1977 edition of the establishment *SIC Manual* recommended by the Technical Committee will be made available for public review and comment prior to final action by the Committee. Those making proposals will be notified directly of actions taken; others will be advised through the *Federal Register*. Notice will probably be issued in January, 1981. A 60–day period will be allowed for appeals to actions proposed by the Technical Committee.

E. *Clarification and Interpretation of Industry Definitions*

Proposed amendments in present industry definitions having no effect on the scope of industrial activity included but designed to improve interpretations of the industry, as well as all proposed new index items and amendments in present index items, will be processed by the Committee on Code Assignment and Interpretation.

F. *Time Schedule*

All proposed amendments to the 1972/1977 edition of the establishment *SIC Manual* should be submitted to the Chairman of the Technical Committee on Industrial Classification at the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards, Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C., 20230, as soon as possible, but by no later than March 30, 1980, to permit transmittal of Technical Committee recommendations to the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards by January 1, 1981. The revised edition of the classification will be effective on January 1, 1982.

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

TWO NEW SMSA'S ANNOUNCED

On November 14, 1978, Secretary of Commerce Juanita M. Kreps announced the designation of two new Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA's), bringing the total number of SMSA's to 283. The two new areas are Rapid City, South Dakota and Janesville-Beloit, Wisconsin. In addition to designating two new SMSA's, Secretary Kreps announced that three cities qualify for inclusion in the SMSA titles for their areas on the basis of recent special censuses. These places are Cape Coral, Florida; Marshall, Texas; and Pasco, Washington.

The standard metropolitan statistical area is a statistical standard used in the development and presentation by Federal agencies of statistical information on metropolitan areas. A standard metropolitan statistical area is designated and defined according to a body of objective, published criteria.

The code, title, and definition of the areas designated as new Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas are as follows:

Code	*Title*	*Definition*
3620	Janesville-Beloit, WI	Rock County
6660	Rapid City, SD	Pennington County Meade County

The following previously designated Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas are retitled as follows:

Code	*New Title*	*Previous Title*
2700	Fort Myers-Cape Coral, FL	Fort Myers, FL
4420	Longview-Marshall, TX	Longview, TX
6740	Richland-Kennewick-Pasco, WA	Richland-newick, WA

(SUZANN K. EVINGER, OFFICE OF FEDERAL STATISTICAL POLICY AND STANDARDS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, telephone (202) 673-7965.)

AVAILABILITY OF THE FRAMEWORK

The Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards, U.S. Department of Commerce has recently issued *A Framework for Planning U.S. Federal Statistics for the 1980's.* This 440-page document is available for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 for $6.25 a copy, stock number 003–005–00183–2.

1978 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

A shorter, simpler report form and three stages of sampling characterize the 1978 Census of Agriculture data-collection program.

Two report forms will be mailed at the end of this year to collect data for counties. Approximately four-fifths of the Nation's farmers and ranchers will receive a 4-page report form limited to basic information and land ownership and use, sale value of agricultural products, acres and production of crops, inventory and sale of livestock and poultry, and selected characteristics of farm operators and management.

The remaining farms on the census mailing list will receive a 5-page report form including the basic items and some additional questions for which county data are urgently needed. Included are energy costs, other production expenses, selected equipment, fertilizer, fuel storage capacity, pesticides, and value of land and buildings.

For the first time, farm operators will be offered a summary sheet showing major census results for their county. Those who wish to receive the data will be asked to indicate "Yes" to the question at the end of the report form.

Another major innovation for the 1978 Agriculture Census is the incorporation of an area segment sample as an integral part of the census. Independent area segment samples on a smaller scale have been used in several prior ag-

riculture censuses to evaluate the completeness of the census, but not to contribute additional data to the census totals.

The evaluation samples have shown that it is not possible to take a truly complete agriculture census, either by direct enumeration or by mail. The estimated number of missed farms in the last two enumerator censuses were 8.4 percent in 1959 and 11.3 percent in 1964. In the subsequent two censuses taken by mail, the estimated number of missed farms was 15 percent for 1969, and 11 percent for 1974. By combining the two data-collection methods, the Bureau expects to reduce the missed farm rate to two or three percent for State totals.

The area segment sample size is designed to provide reliable estimates for States, but is not large enough to provide estimates for counties. Thus, in tables showing county data, the area segment contribution will be shown as "not distributed by county."

The third use of sampling in the 1978 Agriculture Census Program involves the use of several small follow-on surveys to be taken by mail early in 1980 for the year 1979. Each of these will consist of a sample of 10,000 to 50,000 1978 farms having the basic activities about which additional detail is needed. The samples will be constructed to supply reliable estimates for States or the United States. Proposed subjects include horticulture (all farms reporting horticultural activity in 1978), farm finance, farm energy use, on-farm irrigation, and farm structure and organization.

Still another major innovation for the 1978 Agriculture Census has been the use of a farm and ranch identification survey as part of the effort to update the census mailing list. It is essential for the mailing list to be as complete as possible so that the totals for each county in the Nation will be accurate. The one sheet 6-item identification survey served several purposes. It identified operators and nonoperators from among the names and addresses on source lists of agriculture-associated persons. It identified alternate addresses that delivered mail to the same person. It provided a way to correct the names and addresses of persons confirmed as 1978 farm operators. It enabled the Bureau to learn the names of tenants and successors of persons no longer operating part or all of the land with which they are or formerly were associated.

By its nature, the agriculture census is not a short-term operation. It is the only source of county data collected and tabulated by the same set of definitions for the entire Nation. It involves millions of census returns and is a detailed report on American agriculture at periodic intervals. Nevertheless, the Census Bureau plans to collect and publish the data within a 2-year period. Individual county preliminary reports will be published between October 1979 and March 1980, the Volume I final reports of State and county between April and December 1980.

In 1981, the Volume II, General Report, Statistics by Subject, specialized reports such as "Ranking Counties" and the "Graphic Summary," and the results of the follow-on sample surveys will be published. (MARY BURCH, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, telephone (301) 763-5230.)

PROJECTIONS OF EDUCATION STATISTICS

The National Center for Education Statistics recently released *Projections of Education Statistics to 1986–87,* the 14th in a series of reports that have been issued annually since 1964. This publication provides projections of statistics for elementary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education. The statistics include enrollments, graduates, teachers and expenditures. The projections, which supersede those shown in *Projections of Education Statistics to 1985–86,* 1976 edition, are based mainly on 1966–67 to 1976–77 National Center for Education Statistics data and cover the period of 1977–78 to 1986–87 for the United States. Table 1 is a summary of these projections and is available separately in a pocket-sized folder as *Statistics of Trends in Education, 1966–67 to 1986–87,* 1977 edition.

This publication is revised each year in order to take into account the most recent information collected annually by the National Center for Education Statistics and the latest population projections and estimates from the Bureau of the Census.

Projections of enrollments in elementary and secondary schools are based to a large extent on population projections. These projections are of particular interest because they indicate that en-

rollments in these schools, which have already declined 3.3 million since reaching a high 51.1 million in 1969, are expected to continue decreasing from an estimated 47.8 million in 1978 to 44.5 million in 1983. Beginning in 1984, enrollments in these schools are expected to increase gradually.

Most of the projections in this publication are based on three alternative sets of explicitly stated assumptions, resulting in high, intermediate and low alternative projections. Although the intermediate projections are the "preferred" set of projections, the high and low alternatives supply a range of possible future outcomes.

Copies of the 172-page *Projections of Education Statistics to 1986–87* may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 (Stock Number 017–080–01918–3) for $3.75 a copy.

Single copies of the pocket-sized folder *Statistics of Trends in Education 1966–67 to 1986–87* (NCES 78–404) are available at no cost from the Statistical Information Branch, National Center for Education Statistics, Room 3060, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202, telephone (202) 245-8352. (JEAN BRANDES, NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE, telephone (202) 472-5026.)

NCES PROMOTES STATISTICAL CAPACITY OF STATE EDUCATION AGENCIES

The National Center for Education Statistics recently announced the award of eight grants totaling $407,726 to State education agencies to improve their long-term capabilities to collect, process, analyze or report statistical data about education.

The eight states receiving grants are: Arizona, California, Georgia, Illinois, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska and Nevada. The grants are being made under the Center's new Capacity-Building Program.

Included in the activities supported through these eight grants are:

Design and implementation of accounting systems for State and local use in the areas of finance, staff and curriculum.

Development of local school district profiles or information models for use in planning.

Combining the various components of education data (finance, students, staff, etc.) into one integrated data base.

Upgrading of data processing expertise, related computer software programs, and equipment.

(JEAN BRANDES, NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE, telephone (202) 472-5026.)

REGISTRATION AND VOTING IN NOVEMBER 1976—JURISDICTIONS COVERED BY THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1975

The Bureau of the Census has recently released a report entitled "Registration and Voting in November 1976—Jurisdictions Covered by the Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1975." The purpose of the 1976 survey was to provide rates of registration and voting among citizens of voting age, by race and national origin, in political subdivisions subject to section 4(a) of the Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1975. The survey, which was mandated by Public Law 94–73, was conducted in 78 political subdivisions and 9 States under statewide coverage.

The 9 States subject as a whole to the amended Voting Rights Act are Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia. In addition, particular jurisdictions (usually counties) in California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Wisconsin were also surveyed under the provisions of the amended Act.

Detailed tables in the report provide information on the number and percent of citizens registered and voting in the November 1976 election, as reported by survey respondents, and the number voting as shown by election returns, for each of the States and political subdivisions. Moreover, data are shown for Whites, Blacks, and ethnic origin groups as appropriate for each jurisdiction or State. Data are commonly shown for persons of Spanish origin and heritage.

Copies of the report, "Registration and Voting in November 1976—Jurisdictions Covered

by the Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1975," *Current Population Reports,* Series P-23, No. 74 (36 pages, $1.50), are for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, or any Department of Commerce district office. (JERRY T. JENNINGS, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, telephone (301) 763-5050.)

FERTILITY OF AMERICAN WOMEN: JUNE 1977 AND JUNE 1978

The Bureau of the Census recently released a report entitled "Fertility of American Women: June 1977," which covers the childbearing experience and birth expectations of American women based on data collected in the June 1977 Current Population Survey. Data analyzed in this report show the declines that have occurred in the average number of expected lifetime births between the first Census Bureau study of birth expectations in 1967 and the 1977 survey.

Survey findings presented in the text of this final report also include estimates of the numbers of women who expect to have a child within 1 year of the survey date. There is also a brief discussion of new data on premarital conceptions and childbearing among ever-married women.

Also released at the same time was a report entitled "Fertility of American Women: June 1978 (Advance Report)" which documents the stability in birth expectations among young women 18 to 24 years old from 1976 to 1978 at below replacement level fertility.

Copies of the reports, "Fertility of American Women: June 1977," *Current Population Reports,* Series P-20, No. 325 (76 pages, $2.50) and "Fertility of American Women: June 1978 (Advance Report)," *Current Population Reports,* Series P-20, No. 330 (revised) (1 page, $0.60) may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. (MARTIN O'CONNELL, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, telephone (301) 763-5303.)

BALANCE SHEET OF THE FARMING SECTOR

The Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service in the Department of Agriculture has issued the *Balance Sheet of the Farming Sector, 1978.* This annual publication presents statistics for 1978 and earlier years on assets and liabilities of the Nation's agriculture. Physical and financial assets, real estate and nonreal estate debt and proprietors' equities are given in detail. (CARSON D. EVANS, ESCS, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, telephone (202) 447-7643.)

RURAL EDUCATION AND RURAL LABOR FORCE IN THE SEVENTIES

The Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service in the Department of Agriculture recently issued a report on *Rural Education and Rural Labor Force in the Seventies.* This study explores the relationship between education and rural development. Emphasis is placed on determining the educational characteristics of rural workers, particularly to see if their schooling compares with that of those living in urban areas. Although the study focuses on the educational background of rural labor force members, it is also designed to give a broad look at the current rural education using the latest available data. Secondary data furnished by several agencies of the Federal Government were used in the report. (FRANK A. FRATOE, ESCS, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, telephone (202) 447-8673.)

GUIDE TO CENSUS DATA ON THE ELDERLY

The Bureau of the Census recently issued a reference guide to Census data sources related to the elderly. The guide, a joint publication with the Administration on Aging, was prepared in response to numerous requests for information on the social, demographic, economic, and housing characteristics of the elderly. The *Guide to Census Data on the Elderly* is limited essentially to 1970 census data but describes some data available from selected annual surveys and special tabulations conducted by the Bureau of the Census since 1970.

There are two main data source tables on population and housing. Sources in these tables are cross-referenced by subject and geographic availability and indicate if the data are available for racial and ethnic populations as well as whether the data are available in printed reports or on computer tapes. In addition, there are descriptions of the 1970 census printed report series, census summary tapes, and other sources of information available since the 1970 census.

To further assist the researcher, an alphabetical subject index is provided. Copies of the guide are available ($2.50, GPO Stock No. 003-024-01634-6) from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402, Library of Congress number 78-606110. (JOHN SPEIGHT, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, telephone (301) 763-2453.)

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS OF UNEMPLOYMENT

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has recently issued *International Comparisons of Unemployment,* Bulletin 1979 (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1978) which presents and analyzes comparative data on the labor force, employment, unemployment, and related topics for nine industrial countries. The data have been adjusted to U.S. concepts to facilitate comparisons, and the methods used by BLS to make these adjustments are described in detail.

This 168-page bulletin may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, for $3.00 a copy. (JOHN CHANDLER, OFFICE OF PRODUCTIVITY AND TECHNOLOGY, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, telephone (202) 523-9291.)

PRODUCTIVITY INDEXES FOR SELECTED INDUSTRIES

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has recently released *Productivity Indexes for Selected Industries, 1978 Edition,* Bulletin 2002 (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1978), which contains data covering the years 1947 to 1977.

This bulletin updates indexes of output per employee hour and output per employee for the industries included in the U.S. Government's industry productivity measurement program, along with related measures of output, employment, and employee hours. In addition, this issue contains measures for six industries previously not covered: electric lamps, household furniture, laundry and cleaning services, lighting fixtures, electric motors and generators, and veneer and plywood.

Copies of this 247-page bulletin may be purchased for $4.50 a copy from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 or from any BLS regional office. (CHARLES W. ARDOLINI, DIVISION OF INDUSTRY PRODUCTIVITY STUDIES, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, telephone (202) 523-9244.)

FOUR NEW SOCIAL SECURITY BULLETIN REPORTS

The Office of Research and Statistics of the Social Security Administration recently issued the following *Social Security Bulletin* reports which are briefly described.

Private Health Insurance Plans in 1976: An Evaluation (Social Security Bulletin, September 1978).—This article presents the most recent data on the private health insurance industry. Private insurers collected a record $39.4 billion in premiums and returned $35 billion in benefits to their subscribers in 1976—reflecting the steadily rising health care cost, higher utilization, and the demand for expanded services. The industry experienced a net underwriting loss of $611 million, mainly in the group business of insurance companies. About 77 percent of the civilian population had some form of private hospital and surgical insurance. Lesser proportions were covered for other types of care. About 12-13 percent of the population under age 65 had no economic protection against the costs of illness or health-related care—under either a private insurance plan or a public program. Though most of the aged were covered by Medicare, some 13-15 million bought private insurance to close the gaps in the Federal program.

Student OASDI Beneficiaries: Program utilization and Educational Aspirations (Social Security Bulletin, September 1978).—This article examines the timing of social security benefits paid to students aged 18-21 and the appropriateness of the administrative provisions governing payment that relate to educational careers. Of the nearly 2 million children aged 18-21 estimated to be eligible in 1972, about one-third were actually receiving benefits at the end of the year. School enrollments rates by age and race for the beneficiary and total populations were remarkably similar. Sixty-eight percent of those in sample were expected to have fulfilled their undergraduate plans before benefits were terminated because of the age cutoff. Analysis revealed that the amount of the monthly benefit has a significant relationship with the student's plans to continue in school. The median cumulative

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benefit received was projected to be just over $5,000 for those intending 4 or more years of college.

Cash Benefits for Short-Term Sickness, 1948-76 (*Social Security Bulletin,* October 1978).—This article analyzes trends in income-loss and benefit payments to workers during periods of short-term sickness. In contrast to national programs that replace other forms of income loss, only five States, one other jurisdiction, and a single industry require wage-replacement protection for short-term sickness. Voluntary plans cover a substantial number of additional workers. Many of the historical statistics have been revised back to 1967 as a result of new information on sick leave payments. The effects of the new data on the benefit series are examined, as are trends in the provision of sickness benefits for maternity—an issue subject to considerable recent controversy.

The 1973 CPS-IRS-SSA Exact Match Study (Social Security Bulletin, October 1978).—This article attempts to provide an overview of the techniques employed in the exact match study, which links survey records for persons in the March 1973 Current Population Survey to their respective earnings and benefit information in SSA administrative records and to selected items from their 1972 IRS individual income tax returns. Among the topics discussed are the confidentiality requirements in force during the project. The study goals are described and a list of some of the completed research is provided.

Reprints of the articles are available from the Publications Staff, Office of Research and Statistics, Social Security Administration, Room 1120, Universal North Building, 1875 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009, telephone (202) 673-5209. The *Social Security Bulletin* is available by subscription, at $14 a year through the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. (ROBERT E. ROBINSON, SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE, telephone (202) 673-5576.)

SCIENCE RESOURCES STUDIES HIGHLIGHTS

The following *Science Resources Studies Highlights* have been recently released by the National Science Foundation:

"Work Activities of Doctoral Scientists and Engineers Show Substantial Change Between 1973 and 1977" (NSF 78-316) summarizes findings from the third in a series of biennial surveys of doctorate-holding scientists and engineers in the United States. The surveys are conducted by the National Research Council/National Academy of Sciences for the National Science Foundation. The data are shown by sex, race, employment status, type and sector of employment, and primary work activity.

"Defense and Space Lead in Federal R&D Growth in the 1979 Budget" (NSF 78-317) discusses the findings from a forthcoming report, *An Analysis of Federal R&D Funding by Function, Fiscal Years 1969-1979.* The 15 functional categories that make up the structure were chosen to make visible the chief objectives of R&D programs in the 1979 budget. In this bulletin, summary data are given for each function and graphic presentations show a 11-year trend.

Copies of these *Science Resources Studies Highlights* are available gratis from the Division of Science Resources Studies, 1800 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20550.

Detailed Statistical Tables. Graduate Science Education: Student Support and Postdoctorals, Fall 1977 (NSF 78-315) is available gratis from the Division of Science Resources Studies, National Science Foundation, 1800 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20550. (CHARLES E. FALK, DIVISION OF SCIENCE RESOURCES STUDIES, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, telephone (202) 634-4622.)

SCHEDULE OF RELEASE DATES FOR PRINCIPAL FEDERAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS

January 1979

Release dates scheduled by agencies responsible for the principal economic indicators of the Federal Government are given below. *These are target dates* that will be met in the majority of cases. *Occasionally agencies may be able to release data a day or so earlier or may be forced by unavoidable compilation problems to release a report one or more days later.*

A similar schedule will be shown here each month covering release dates for the following month. The indicators are identified by the title of the releases in which they are included; the source agency; the release identification number where applicable; and the *Business Conditions Digest* series numbers for all BCD series included, shown in parentheses. Release date information for additional series can be found in publications of the sponsoring agencies.

(Any inquiries about these series should be directed to the issuing agency.)

Date	*Subject*	*Data For*
January 2	Construction Expenditures (Press release), Census, C-30 (69)	November
3	Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders, Census (65)	November
3	Open Market Money Rates and Bond Prices, FRB, G.13	December
3	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, Federal Reserve Board (FRB), H.4.2. (72, 112)	Week Ending December 27
4	Money Stock Measures, FRB, H.6 (85, 102, 107, 108)	Week Ending December 27
4	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRB, H.4.1 (93, 94)	Week Ending January 3
5	Consumer Credit, FRB, G.19 (66, 113)	November
9	Manufacturers' Export Sales and Orders, Census, M4-A	November
10	Advance Monthly Retail Sales (Press Release), Census (54)	December
10	Monthly Wholesale Trade (Press release), Census, BW	November
10	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRB, H.4.2. (72, 112)	Week Ending January 3
11	Crop Production, Agriculture	January 1

Date	Subject	Data For
January 11	Money Stock Measures, FRB, H.6 (85, 102, 107, 108) .....Week Ending	January 3
11	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks (FRB), H.4.1. (93, 94) .....Week Ending	January 10
11	Producer Price Indexes (Press release), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) (330-334)	December
12	The Employment Situation (Press release), BLS (1, 3, 21, 37, 40-44, 91, 340, 442, 444-448, 451-452)	December
15	Food Assistance Program Results, Agriculture	November
15	Industrial Production and Related data, FRB, G.12.3 (47, 73-76)	December
15	Yields on FHA Insured New Home 30-Year Mortgages, HUD (118)	January 1
15	Manufacturing and Trade: Inventories and Sales, BEA (31, 56, 71)	November
17	Housing Starts (Press release), Census, C-20 (28, 29)	December
17	Output, Capacity, and Capacity Utilization FRB, G.3 (82, 84)	December
17	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRB, H.4.2. (72, 112) .....Week Ending	January 10
18	Personal Income, BEA (223)	December
18	Money Stock Measures, FRB, H.6 (85, 102, 107, 108) .....Week Ending	January 10
18	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRB, H.41 .....Week Ending	January 17
19	Cattle on Feed, Agriculture	4 Q'78
19	Gross National Product (Preliminary), BEA (200, 205, 210)	4 Q '78
23	Supply Demand Estimates, Agriculture .....Current Marketing Season	
23	Advance Report on Durable Goods, Manufacturers Shipments and Orders (Press release), Census, M3-1, (6, 24, 25, 96, 548)	December
24	Average Yields of Long-Term Bonds, Treasury Bulletin (115, 116)	November
24	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRB, H.4.2 (72, 112) .....Week Ending	January 17
24	Consumer Price Index (Press release), BLS (320-322)	December
24	Real Earnings (Press release), BLS (341)	December

Date	*Subject*	*Data For*
January 25	Money Stock Measures, FRB, H.6 (85, 102, 107, 108) .....Week Ending	January 17
25	Grain Stock Report, Agriculture	January 1
25	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRB, H.4.1 (93, 94) .....Week Ending	January 24
25	Housing Vacancies (Press release), Census, H-111	4 Q '78
26	Major Collective Bargaining Settlements (Press release), BLS 348, 349	4 Q '78
26	Productivity and Costs in Private, Nonfarm Business, and Manufacturing Sectors (Press release), BLS	4 Q '78
26	Labor Turnover in Manufacturing (Press release), BLS (2, 3, 4)	December
29	Work Stoppages (Press release), BLS	December
30	Export and Import Merchandise Trade, Census, FT-900 (602, 612)	December
31	Composite Indexes of Leading, Coincident, and Lagging Indicators (Press release), BEA	December
31	Agricultural Prices, Agriculture	Mid-January
31	Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders, Census (65)	December
31	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRB, H.4.2 (72, 112) .....Week Ending	January 24

PERSONNEL NOTES

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Dr. J. B. PENN has rejoined the Department of Agriculture as Deputy Administrator for Economics in the Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service. Dr. Penn's previous assignment was as Senior Staff Economist with the President's Council of Economic Advisors.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Bureau of Standards: JOAN R. ROSENBLATT, after nine years as Chief of the Statistical Engineering Laboratory, is now Deputy Director of the Center for Applied Mathematics at the National Bureau of Standards. HARRY KU is now Chief of the Statistical Engineering Laboratory at the National Bureau of Standards.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Division of Science Resources Studies: ALAN FECHTER, formerly Senior Research Associate, Urban Institute, is now Head, Scientific and Technical Personnel Studies Section. RUTH E. SIEGEL, formerly a Professional Assistant in the Directorate for Biological, Behavioral, and Social Sciences, National Science Foundation, is now a Program Analyst in the Government Studies Group, R&D Economic Studies Section. MARGARET R. GRUCZA, formerly an Assistant Program Director in the Directorate for Biological, Behavioral, and Social Sciences, National Science Foundation, is now a Program Analyst in the Industry Studies Group, R&D Economic Studies Section.

DEATH

JULIUS SHISKIN, Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics since 1973, died October 28, 1978. Prior to becoming Commissioner of BLS, he was head of the former Statistical Policy Division in the Office of Management and Budget, the predecessor of the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards.

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Price: 85 cents (single copy). Subscription Price: $9.70 domestic postpaid; $3.30 additional foreign mailing.

Periodicals from BLS

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor is one of the Nation's principal economic fact-finding agencies. BLS publishes seven periodicals for sale to the public.

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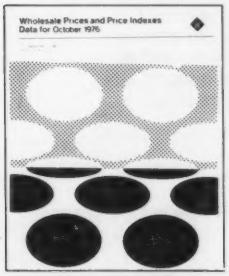

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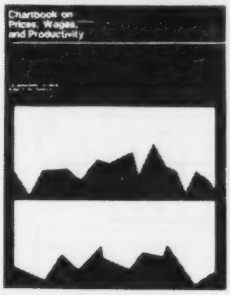

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Through articles and short features prepared by experts in their fields, the *Social Security Bulletin* each month assesses changes in social-insurance and income-maintenance programs and their impact on individuals and the economy. Many studies focus directly on the old-age, survivors, disability, and health insurance program and cover, for example, such subjects as women's and younger workers' future retirement benefits and Medicare's effect on the aged and disabled populations. Also measured is the economic situation of the low-income population and the impact of supplemental security income benefits. Other articles document new developments in private insurance and employee benefits; foreign social security systems, and programs such as railroad retirement, workers' compensation, and unemployment insurance. Year by year changes in national expenditures for health and social welfare are reported. A special section in each *Bulletin* issue is devoted to current operating statistics from social security and related programs. In addition to the 12 monthly magazines, subscribers also receive the *Annual Statistical Supplement* to the *Bulletin* featuring an extensive compilation of general time-series data on social security and the economy as well as interprogram data, program definitions, and historical summaries of social security legislation.

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